



Title | Behind Affliction
Series | Living Like He's Coming
Text | 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | February 18, 2024

Sermon Notes

1 Thessalonians 2:17 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, **18** because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. **19** For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? **20** For you are our glory and joy. **3:1** Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, **2** and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, **3** that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. **4** For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. **5** For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

In every one of the five chapters of 1 Thessalonians, there is a closing reference to the coming of Christ. Why would the apostle Paul emphasize this?

Tuesday:

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5. Identify all the places that either express or imply that Satan is at work? What is the nature of Satan's work and how effective is it?

Wednesday:

Review 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5. Identify all the places where believers experienced some affliction. How does Satan use affliction to tempt believers? Is affliction to be expected by faithful followers of Christ? Why does God allow the affliction? (See James 1:2-4; Romans 8:18, 28; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Genesis 50:20.)

Thursday:

In 1 Thessalonians 2:19, what event does Paul have in mind? How is it relevant to his concern for the Thessalonians? (See Revelation 22:12; 2 Corinthians 5:20; 1 John 2:28.)

Friday:

If it is true that through affliction, God tests us for our good, while Satan tempts us for our ruin, why is it important to keep this in mind? What may happen if we lose sight of this? What difference does it make?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, in the affliction I face, help me to remain faithful to you, recognizing that you test me for my good, while Satan tempts me for my ruin. Amen.

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